



## Miami Valley Career Technology Center Press Release

### For Further Information Contact:

Kelly Herzog

MVCTC Public Information Coordinator

Phone - 937-854-6056

E-Mail – [kherzog@mvctc.com](mailto:kherzog@mvctc.com)

Check us out on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mvctc](http://www.twitter.com/mvctc)

Or become a fan on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mvctc](http://www.facebook.com/mvctc)

For Immediate Release – *February 2012*

### ***MVCTC Alumni Pursue Dream to be Adventure Tour Guides***

**Clayton, Ohio** – Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) has four alumni currently studying an exciting and new major at Hocking College called Eco-tourism & Adventure Travel. The students in this major will study sustainability as well as adventure experiences. Students are trained and certified in whitewater rafting, rock-climbing, SCUBA diving, backpacking, Spelunking, Sailing, Sea Kayaking, Paddling and more. The four students from MVCTC currently pursuing this degree are Justin Bowers (2010 MVCTC Environmental Science graduate from Preble Shawnee, Lyndsey Varner (2010 MVCTC Culinary Arts graduate from Tri-County North), Alex Kessler (2009 Environmental Science graduate from Arcanum), and Chelsie Decker (2010 Environmental Science graduate from Miamisburg).

According to Justin, “Three of us (Alex, Lyndsey, and I) are currently in what’s called Adventure Leadership, which takes us on several trips, including a two-week trip to Florida. While in Florida, we backpacked and paddled in the Everglades National Park right beside dolphins, manatees, and alligators. We also trained in vertical rope rescue, white water rescue, and some other basic skills.”

Justin also shared that students in the program took a trip to the Bahamas that included nine weeks on Andros Island in the Caribbean. While on the trip students studied sub-tropical ecology (birds, trees, fish, coral, and geology), scuba diving, sea kayaking, and sailing.

The Hocking program also teaches students sustainability practices including leave no trace camping, ethical behaviors toward our natural world, and smarter living (i.e. recycling, green energy, etc.). Once the students complete the

program, they will have earned their Associate of Applied Science in Ecotourism and Adventure Travel.

When asked how his experience at MVCTC helped to prepare him for college classes, Justin shared, "I had already earned 36 college credits to Hocking College while attending MVCTC. With all of the hands-on experience in lab and working at the Germantown Metro Park, I was able to help in classes at Hocking as a tutor because I had already done the lab work while at MVCTC." After completing his associate's degree at Hocking, Justin intends to begin a career as an adventure tour guide. As Justin says, "this career can take me anywhere and/or everywhere in the world."

To learn more about the Hocking College program, visit <http://www.hocking.edu/programs/ecotourism> to learn more about MVCTC programs that would be beneficial for a high school student considering this type of career, visit <http://www.mvctc.com/cosa>.

**###**

Photo 1 - Alex Kessler, a 2009 MVCTC Environmental Science graduate from Arcanum, is currently studying at Hocking College to be an adventure tour guide. Alex is pictured here with a scorpion whip spider.

Photo 2 – Justin Bowers, a 2010 MVCTC Environmental Science graduate from Preble Shawnee, is currently studying at Hocking College to be an adventure tour guide. Justin is pictured here during a class assignment on a boat.

Photo 3 - Lyndsey Varner, a 2010 MVCTC Culinary Arts graduate from Tri-County North and Chelsie Decker, a 2010 Environmental Science graduate from Miamisburg, are currently studying at Hocking College to be an adventure tour guides.